

What has/is Community Fora doing towards helping communities become more sustainable?

1. Transport Audit 2009

An audit of transport provision in the county was completed by Community Fora in 2009 on behalf of Social Inclusion Measures Group. Amongst the recommendations contained in the Audit Report were:

- The promotion of more sustainable travel behaviour in the county.
- Re-instatement of the Roscommon Rural Transport Forum – a forum of key transport stakeholders in the county working collectively to progress sustainability and social inclusion agendas.

2. Smarter Travel Project 2011 – 2012

Following on from the Transport Audit, Community Fora were successful in their application to the Dept. of Transport's Smarter Travel Fund for funding for a 2 year project entitled "Delivering Better Access to Sustainable Transport Information & Service Provision at County Level" which provides travel and transport information via www.getaboutros.com and through actions initiated by Roscommon Rural Transport Forum.

3. Roscommon Rural Transport Forum (RRTF)

Re-established in early 2010 with the representatives from 14 organisations and groups as follows: -

Youth Work Ireland	Roscommon Support Group
Roscommon Integrated Development Co.	Kilbride Community Centre
Roscommon County Council – Roads Section	Cuise/IWA
Roscommon County Council – Social Inclusion Unit	Bros. of Charity Roscommon
Roscommon Rural Transport Company	People with Disabilities Ireland
Roscommon Community Fora	Roscommon Tourism Network
The Melting Pot	

RRTF has initiated a number of projects including:

Establishment of Facebook page

A survey of transport needs and attitudes of second level school children

A survey of transport needs for people with disabilities

Facilitated the collaboration of a group of community organisations who operate their transport services to reduce costs, share resources etc. This group participated in the national "Collaborate to Innovate" Programme to develop its plans.

A pilot project to support disabled people to gain a D1 License to drive a minibus as there is a shortage of drivers for the community-owned fleet.

RRTF will be hosting a Rural Transport Seminar next month (during Social Inclusion Week 17th – 21st Oct). The aim of the seminar is to provide an overview of the present rural transport service, within sustainable development & social inclusion contexts.

4. Local Agenda 21 Project 2011

The Community For a and Roscommon Rural Transport Co received funding from the LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund for a project to increase awareness amongst 13 – 17 year olds of the bus service operated by Roscommon Rural Transport Co during 2011

5. Energy Audits of Community Facilities 2011

Community Fora were involved in a project with RIDC and Westbic to conduct audits on community centres and other community buildings. The audits also included energy conservation/efficiency measures which could form the basis of funding applications to RIDC

6. Sustainable Energy Group

Community For a has a seat on the RCDB's Sustainable Energy Group

7. Community Resilience Training 2010

Community For a development worker participated in the Community Resilience training hosted by RIDC which explore a range of sustainability issues and how communities can adapt and thrive in challenging times.

8. Sustainability Training 2011

The Fora launched its Community Training Programme at the beginning of September which contains 3 courses relevant to sustainability.